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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9116
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 9117

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION SAO PAULO: North Korea, Cuba and Iran
04-16-2009

Media Reaction - East Asia and Pacific: planned missile launch, nuclear program; South and Central Asia: Afghanistan, Iran, regional and global influence; Western Hemisphere: Cuba, governance; Sao Paulo

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Title- Provocation diplomacy

Editorial in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (4-16) states: "The launch of a rocket by North Korea, on the fifth, revived regional tensions and generated the country's [North Korea] condemnation by the U.N.'s Security Council. Nonetheless, it will probably not change the game of provocation and restraint that marks the country's relation with the international community....Despite international progress in the nuclear program and in the new hostile gesture against the international community, the miserable North Koreans keeps being susceptible to negotiations that offer economic help in exchange for the bomb's renunciation. Global diplomacy should continue to bet all its cards on this route."

Title- Cuba

Op-ed in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (4-16) by Kenneth Maxwell says: "Obama is walking on a razor's edge. He chose Dan Restrepo....to announce the changes [in restrictions to Cuba]. But the announced measures reflect a real change in the U.S. attitude with Havana....Fidel Castro wrote that the policy was 'positive but minimal'. In other words: steps in the right direction."

Title- Route to Teheran

Op-ed in center-right O Estado de S. Paulo (4-16) by sociologist Demtrio Magnoli notes: "Today Washington needs Teheran to avoid a disaster in Afghanistan and hinder Iraq's destabilization....But Iran will not lower its flag in exchange of nothing....The reconstruction of a peace process between Israel, the Palestinians and Syria is a minimum effort that Teheran expects Washington to make. Obama will fail if he does not confront Israel's new government, which rejects the commitment to a two state principle with Palestine..."

WHITE